

## City of Warwick Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention

### Guidelines for Smoke & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

#### Dates of Construction Permits dictate the type and location of Smoke/CO Alarms

##### Homes built in or prior to 1976

- Smoke/CO alarms can be of the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm) or two separate units
- They are permitted to be ***battery operated***
- They are ***not required*** to be ***interconnected*** (when one goes off, they all go off)
- Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on ***every level*** of the home

##### Homes built after January 1, 1977 through December 31, 2001

- Smoke/CO alarms can be of the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm) or two separate units
- The smoke alarms are required to be ***hard-wired with battery backup***
- They ***are required*** to be ***interconnected*** (when one goes off, they all go off)
- The ***CO alarms*** are allowed to be ***battery operated***, if you do not use the combination type
- Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on ***every level*** of the home

##### Homes built after January 1, 2002 through February 19, 2004

- Smoke/CO alarms can be the combination type (Smoke/CO in one alarm)
- The Smoke/CO alarms are required to be ***hard-wired with battery backup***.
- They ***are required*** to be ***interconnected*** (when one goes off, they all go off)
- Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should be installed on ***every level*** of the home

##### Homes built after February 20, 2004 through Present

- Smoke alarms are required to be installed ***inside every bedroom***
- The smoke alarms are required to be ***hard-wired with battery backup***
- They ***are required*** to be ***interconnected*** (when one goes off, they all go off)
- Installation of Smoke/CO alarms should still be installed on ***every level*** of the home
- The Smoke/CO alarms are required to be ***hard-wired with battery backup***

**\*Dwellings with no fossil fuels (gas, oil, propane), attached garages, or fireplaces are not required to install CO alarms.**

**\*\*Information regarding alarms for the hard of hearing or visually impaired , can be obtained at OSCIL.org or email [info@oscil.org](mailto:info@oscil.org).**

### **Guidelines for Installation of Smoke & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms**

- **First, determine if the existing Smoke alarms are battery-operated, hardwired or low voltage**
  - If they are hardwired they must be maintained.
  - You shall not substitute a battery operated Smoke alarm for a hardwired unit.
- **Second, determine if the existing Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old**
  - Do this by taking the Smoke alarm down and looking for a manufacturers date on the back or inside the device.
  - If only a serial number is given, usually either the first two or last two numbers are the date of manufacture. They are likely too old.
- **There shall be a Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm on each level of the house**
- **If there are bedrooms on a level, there should be a smoke and carbon monoxide alarm within ten feet (10') of each bedroom**
  - If the bedrooms are farther than ten feet (10') apart, install a second smoke alarm.
  - Smoke alarms may be a Smoke/Carbon Combination alarm or two separate units.
    - Most stand alone carbon monoxide alarms are designed to be mounted on the wall (*follow the manufacturer's directions*)
    - Carbon Monoxide Alarms shall not be of the plug-in type.
- **If there are no bedrooms on a level, the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarm should be placed near the stairs to the next level**
- **In the basement the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms should be within three feet (3') of the bottom of the stairs (*change effective in 2004*)**
  - If there is a bedroom in the basement more than ten feet (10') from the bottom of the stairs, a second smoke alarm should be installed outside the bedroom and the carbon monoxide can be moved to within ten feet (10') of the bedroom.
    - (*Ex. Smoke alarm only at the bottom of the stairs, Smoke/Carbon combo outside the bedroom*)
- **Alarms should not be within twenty feet (20') of any cooking appliance**
  - If a bedroom opens directly into a kitchen, the Smoke alarm shall be placed inside the bedroom on the ceiling, within the door swing.
- **Preferably Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling, however they may be installed on the wall (*follow the manufacturer's directions*)**
- **Payment for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Certifications is \$30.00 made payable to The City of Warwick**
  - Accepted are Bank Checks, Money Orders or a check with a business name on it.
  - Cash or personal checks will not be accepted by the Inspectors.
  - It is best to seek an appointment as soon as possible, with a minimum of a two week notice. This allows time to reschedule or fix any problems that need correction after an inspection.
- **Failed inspections or no shows without prior cancellation will result in an additional charge of \$60.00 for each subsequent inspection as outlined in Rhode Island General Law**